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reports which I have received do not state whether any correlated change occurred in the foliage, stems or other feature of the plant's habit. It is, therefore, plain that one cannot satisfactorily discuss the nature of those cases of atavistic mutation until more complete data are obtained. Still, one seems to be justified in assuming that the exciting cause of atavistic mutation in those two cases is largely connected with climatic conditions, although the determinate cause of mutation, both phylogenetic and atavistic, is apparently often independent of such conditions. It may be added that I have not yet been able to suggest an exciting cause for the cases of aggregate phylogenetic mutation which I have referred to; but the facts of that mutation are absolutely as I have stated them in the publications mentioned in the foregoing footnote.

CHARLES A. WHITE.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,

December 30, 1902.

#### CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON.

##### APPOINTMENT OF RESEARCH ASSISTANTS.

It is the purpose of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, among other plans, to encourage exceptional talent by appointing a certain number of research assistants.

These positions will not be those commonly known as fellowships or scholarships; nor is the object of this provision to contribute to the payment of mechanical helpers or of assistants in the work of the institution. It is rather to discover and develop, under competent scrutiny and under favorable conditions, such persons as have unusual ability. It is not intended to provide means by which a student may complete his courses of study, nor to give assistance in the preparation of dissertations for academic degrees. Work of a more advanced and special character is expected of all who receive appointment.

The annual emolument will vary according to circumstances. As a rule, it will not exceed \$1,000 per annum. No limitations are prescribed as to age, sex, nationality, graduation or residence. Appointments will at first be made for one year, but may be continued.

It is desirable that a person thus appointed

should work under the supervision of an investigator who is known to the authorities of the Carnegie Institution to be engaged in an important field of scientific research, and in a place where there is easy access to libraries and apparatus—but there may be exceptions to this.

Applications for appointments may be presented by the head of, or by a professor in, an institution of learning, or by the candidate. They should be accompanied by a statement of the qualifications of the candidate, of the research work he has done, and of that which he desires to follow, and of the time for which an allowance is desired. If he has already printed or written anything of interest, a copy of this should be enclosed with the application.

Communications upon this subject should be distinctly marked on the outside envelope, and on the inside, Research Assistant, and should be addressed to the Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1439 K Street, Washington, D. C.

##### MARINE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY.

THE Carnegie Institution of Washington has made a grant to the Marine Biological Laboratory and now has at its disposal twenty tables in the Laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass., for the season of 1903. These tables are intended for the use of persons engaged in original research in biology, and carry with them the right to be furnished with the ordinary supplies and material of the Laboratory. Applications for the use of one of these tables should be addressed to the Secretary of the Carnegie Institution, Washington, D. C., stating the period for which the use of the table is desired, and the general character of the work which the applicant proposes to do.

##### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE American Society of Naturalists at its Washington meeting during convocation week elected as president Professor William Trelease, of the Missouri Botanical Garden. Dr. Franz Boas, of New York, was elected vice-president and Professor Bashford Dean, treasurer. Dr. G. Ross Harrison was reelected secretary. Professor William T. Sedgwick,

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Professor J. McKeen Cattell, of Columbia University, were elected additional members of the executive committee. The time and place of the next meeting of the society were referred to the executive committee in consultation with the secretaries of the affiliated societies, but will doubtless be at St. Louis in conjunction with the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

PROFESSOR J. H. LONG, of Northwestern University, was elected president of the American Chemical Society, in succession to President Ira Remsen, of the Johns Hopkins University.

At the annual meeting of the American Mathematical Society the following officers were elected: *President*, Professor Thomas S. Fiske, Columbia University; *Vice-Presidents*, Professor W. F. Osgood, Harvard University, Professor Alexander Ziwet, University of Michigan, Professor D. E. Smith, Teachers College, Columbia University; *Secretary*, Professor F. N. Cole, Columbia University; *Treasurer*, W. S. Dennett. *Librarian*, Professor D. E. Smith; *Committee of Publication*, Professor F. N. Cole, Professor Alexander Ziwet, Professor D. E. Smith; *Members of the Council*, Professor James Harkness, Bryn Mawr College, Heinrich Maschke, University of Chicago, Irving Stringham and W. H. Tyler.

MR. WILLIAM LUTLEY SOLATER has been selected by the council of the Zoological Society of London to succeed his father, Mr. Philip Lutley Sclater, as secretary of the society. Mr. Sclater holds the position of director of the South African Museum at Cape Town.

MR. WILLIS L. MOORE, of the U. S. Weather Bureau, and M. C. A. Angot, of the Central Meteorological Bureau of France, have been elected members of the Royal Meteorological Society.

DR. J. WIESNER, of Vienna, has been elected a foreign member of the Linean Society of London and a corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences at Göttingen.

ON the occasion of his jubilee Lord Lister has been created, by the King of Denmark, a Knight of the Grand Cross of the Order of Dannebrog.

IN accordance with the recommendation of the Paris Academy of Sciences, M. Darboux has been appointed a member of the Bureau of Longitude in the room of the late M. Cornu.

DR. HERMANN NOTHNAGEL, professor of clinical medicine and therapeutics in the University of Vienna, has been nominated a life member of the upper house of the Austrian Parliament.

DR. FREDERICK W. TRUE, executive curator of the National Museum, has been placed in charge of the exhibits of the Smithsonian Institution and National Museum at the St. Louis Exposition.

DR. RUDOLF ADERHOLD has been made director of the Berlin Bureau of Health.

DR. CHARLES J. BELL, professor of chemistry in the University of Minnesota, died on January 4, aged forty-eight years.

THE scientific fraternity, the Sigma Xi Society, has established a chapter at Columbia University.

THE Colorado Institute of Electrical Engineers has been organized at Denver with the following officers: *Chairman*, Henry L. Doherty; *Vice-Chairman*, J. W. Stearns; *Second Vice-Chairman*, A. H. Weber; *Secretary*, Eugene Sayer; *Treasurer*, A. M. Ballou.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

IT is announced that among the New Year's benefactions of Dr. D. K. Pearsons, of Chicago, will be: Illinois College, Jacksonville, Ill., \$50,000; Fargo College, Fargo, N. D., \$50,000; West Virginia Conference Seminary, Buchanan, W. Va., \$50,000; Fairmount College, Wichita, Kas., \$25,000. This would make the total of Mr. Pearsons's contributions to colleges \$4,000,000.

THE Board of Trustees of Hamline University in Minneapolis announces that an endowment of \$250,000 for the university has been raised, principally in Minnesota. Messrs. James J. Hill and M. G. and J. L. Norton, of Winona, gave large sums.